

Nyakyusa language

Nyakyusa, or **Nyakyusa-Ngonde**, is a Bantu language of Tanzania and Malawi spoken by the Nyakyusa people around the northern end of Lake Malawi. There is no single name for the language as a whole; dialects are Nyakyusa, Ngonde (Konde), Kukwe, Mwamba (Lungulu), and Selya (Salya, Seria) of Tanzania. Disregarding the Bantu language prefixes *Iki-* and *Ki-*, the language is also known as Konde ~ Nkhonde, Mombe, Nyekyosa ~ Nyikyusa, and Sochile ~ Sokili.

Sukwa is often listed as another dialect, but according to Nurse (1988) and Fourshey (2002) it is a dialect of Lambya.

In Malawi Nyakusa and Kyangonde are spoken in the northern part of Karonga District, on the shore of Lake Malawi close to the border with Tanzania, while Nkhonde is spoken the centre of the district, including in the town of Karonga.^[4]

According to the Language Mapping Survey for Northern Malawi carried out by the Centre for Language Studies of the University of Malawi, "Nyakyuska, though spoken by very few people, mainly at Iponga in Sub T/ A Mwakawoko’s area, is regarded as the parent language from which Kyangonde and Chinkhonde originated. Kyangonde, on the other hand, is regarded as the most prestigious and standard language/dialect of the district. ... Chinkhonde is seen as a dialect of Kyangonde which has been heavily influenced by Citumbuka."^[5]

The same Survey contains a folktale (the Tortoise and the Hare) in Chinkhonde and other languages of Northern Malawi, as well as some comparative vocabulary.^[6]

Below is the **Tortoise and the Hare** folktale in Chinkhonde.

KALULU NU UFULU:

Ufulu abukire polenga ifyakulya ku bandu. Pakwegha thumba lyake akapinyilira ku luropo litali no fwara msingo lyake, linga akwenda lithumba likisagha mnyuma. Apo akagha mu njira, ukalulu akisagha mnyuma papo atiri “ehe, thumba lyangu” Ufulu atiri, we thumba lyangu ili keta luropo mphinyilire nkhuğuza linga nkwenḁa”. Ukalulu akanire ayobire kuti “Tubuke kumphala kuburongo”. Mphala yolongire batumire chingwe icho Ufulu apinyilire thumba. Bakegha thumba bampere Ukalulu. Lisiku limo Ukalulu akendagha, Ufulu amwaghire papo atiri “ehe, mchira wangu!” Ukalulu atiri “Sa!

| Nyakyusa | |
|-----------------|--|
| Ngonde | |
| Native to | Tanzania, Malawi |
| Ethnicity | Nyakyusa |
| Native speakers | 1,359,000 (2009-2016) ^[1] (including Sukwa) |
| Language family | Niger–Congo <ul style="list-style-type: none">Atlantic–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Volta-Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Benue–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bantoid<ul style="list-style-type: none">Southern Bantoid<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bantu<ul style="list-style-type: none">Rukwa<ul style="list-style-type: none">Rungwe<ul style="list-style-type: none">Nyakyusa |
| Language codes | |
| ISO 639-3 | nyy |
| Glottolog | nyak1260 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/nyak1260) ^[2] |
| Guthrie code | M.31 ^[3] |
| Linguasphere | 99-AUS-v (http://linguasphere.info/?page=linguascale&linguacode=99-AUS-v) incl. inner units & varieties 99-AUS-va...-vd |

We fulu mchira wangu ubu”. Ufulu akanire po atiri “nsalire wangu”. Babukire sona ku Mphala kuburongi. Ku Mphala inongwa yinoghire Ufulu. Batumwire mchira wa Kalulu no mupa Fulu.^[7]

Further reading

Bastian Persohn (2017). The Verb in Nyakyusa: A focus on tense, aspect, and modality. Berlin: Language Science Press. <http://langsci-press.org/catalog/book/141>. ISBN 978-3-96110-014-9 . DOI 10.5281/zenodo.926408. Open Access.

References

1. "Nyakyusa-Ngonde" (<https://www.ethnologue.com/language/nyy>). *Ethnologue*. Retrieved 2018-08-10.
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Nyakyusa-Ngonde" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/nyak1260>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Jouni Filip Maho, 2009. *New Updated Guthrie List Online* (<https://web.archive.org/web/20180203191542/http://goto.glocalnet.net/mahopapers/nuglonline.pdf>)
4. Centre for Language Studies map of Northern Malawi Languages (<http://unima-cls.org/Docs/MappingNorthernMalawi/mw-north-a4.jpg>).
5. *Language Mapping Survey* (2006) (<http://unima-cls.org/Docs/MappingNorthernMalawi/lm-northernmalawi.pdf>), p. 17.
6. *Language Mapping Survey* p.63 and 70-71.
7. [1] (<http://unima-cls.org/Docs/MappingNorthernMalawi/lm-northernmalawi.pdf>), p. 17.

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